

**University Women of Europe
Newsletter November 2009**

Dear All,

Several things have happened since I was elected in Vienna.

First, the UWE meeting itself. We are very grateful to the Austrian Association members who put in so much work to make it an enjoyable occasion for all who attended. We all appreciated the extra hospitality offered in the VAO office when we arrived, the expeditions to the Austrian National Bank, and afterwards to Linz and the sightseeing in Vienna. VAO has very good political contacts and we were offered hospitality by the deputy mayor of Vienna, the Minister for Women to whom we presented the conclusions of our workshops, and for those who went to Linz a reception from the senior female politicians who head the provincial government in Upper Austria.

We had an interesting presentation by the President of the European Women's Lobby, Brigitte Triems and a short musical concert from a local quartet. The afternoon of the first day was spent in workshops on women and work, decision-making positions and flexitime and the effect on women's life and work.

The General Assembly elected Griselda Kenyon as President and Gerda Leushuis as Secretary. A separate working group was set up to finalise the wording of the Constitution which had caused problems last year and the text was agreed.

Griselda Kenyon and other members attended the meetings in Geneva to discuss progress since the World Conference in Beijing in 1995 (Beijing + 15). The official outcome of the discussions will be available on the ECE website. Vera John Mikołajewski attended the meeting of the Council of Europe, where the current campaign on the Rights of the Child, the intercultural dialogue and the universality of Human Rights and the Bologna Process; women's access to degrees at post-graduate level were discussed. Marie-Jose Jonczy attended an EWL meeting where the Lisbon Treaty was discussed and also the state of play on European equality legislation. UWE signed the EWL open letter to the Heads of State and Government regarding "a democratic representation of both women and men in the highest levels of European governance". Useful information is available on the WIDE network : www.wide-networks.org

Gerda Leushuis represented UWE at the German Association's 60th birthday. The UWE board meeting in November discussed the next UWE meeting which will take place in Bochum/Essen, Germany from 25 – 27th June 2010. The theme will be; The Education of Girls and Women in a Climate of Intercultural Tension. The title is not exactly fixed but it will be on this theme. There will be a pre-conference visit to Kiel for those who wish.

This meeting will be held earlier than usual because of the IFUW meeting in Mexico in August. ANY ITEMS YOU WISH TO DISCUSS MUST THEREFORE BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD BY FEBRUARY 28 AT THE LATEST. This includes dues, bylaw amendments, resolutions and any business which has to be circulated to other CERs. Time is needed to discuss things in national associations.

I send you all good wishes for the holiday season and for the New Year

Griselda Kenyon